

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 7, 9, 11, 28, 29, 34 – 41, 46, 47 and 49 – 71 are pending in the present application. Claims 8, 10, 12 – 27, 30 – 33, 42 – 45 and 48 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the claims are rejected based on the disclosures of:

- (a) U.S. Patent No. 4,232,947 to Funada et al;
 - (b) U.S. Patent No. 6,519,018 to Samant;
 - (c) U.S. Patent No. 4,996,123 to Nomura et al.; and
 - (d) JP 5-249463;
- collectively, hereinafter referred to as “the cited references.”

The application now contains three independent claims, namely claims 1, 11 and 34. Applicants are clarifying an aspect of claims 1, 11 and 34 that Applicants believe is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 1 provides for a liquid crystal device. The liquid crystal device includes, *inter alia*, a surface alignment structure having a two dimensional array of alignment posts having a random or pseudorandom spacing therebetween.

Applicants do not believe that the cited references, either independently or in combination with one another, disclose or suggest a two dimensional array of alignment posts having a **random or pseudorandom spacing** therebetween, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is both novel and patentable over the cited references.

Claims 11 and 34 each include a recital similar to that of claim 1, as described above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 11 and 34 are also novel and patentable over the cited references.

All of the pending dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 11 or 34. By virtue of this dependence, the pending dependent claims are also novel and patentable over the cited references.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, and withdrawal of the rejections that are set forth in the Office Action.

As mentioned above, Applicants are amending claims 1, 11 and 34 to clarify an aspect of the claims that is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Additionally, Applicants are amending claims 1 and 34 to properly introduce a term, and clarifying claims 9 and 41 by framing them in terms of a first alignment post and a second alignment post.

Applicants are adding claims 50 - 71 to even further provide the claim coverage that Applicants appear to deserve based on the prior art that was cited by the Examiner. A favorable consideration that also results in the allowance of claims 50 - 71 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

6/22/07
Date

Respectfully submitted,

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